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TALES OF THE TMNT
TM

AND NOW FOR SOMETHING COMPLETELY DIFFERENT

I don't have much to say this month so I got my friend Jason Bischoff, the Creative Services Administer at Playmates Toys, to play show-and-tell for us...

-Murphy

Hey Fellow Shell-Heads,
First of all, thanks to Murphy for opening up the *Tales* editorial page to me this month. What an honor!

In 1990, I witnessed one of the most significant events of my young 8-year old life... the arrival of the biggest toy store I had ever seen, not 2 miles from my home. On opening day (after a meet and greet with our favorite ninja teens) I purchased the greatest villain to ever face my TMNT collection: evil turtle Slash.

Naturally, some 15 years later when I landed a job at Playmates Toys, I felt it was only necessary to customize one up in the modern look for display in my office. With a "new" Leo, a generic rubber ankylosaurus, a utility blade and some acrylic paint, you can craft one too.

Enjoy, gang, and thanks to the TMNT crew for bringing us this sweet comic every month!

-Jason Bischoff
3.3.05

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EDITOR, CREATIVE CONSULTANT • PETER LAIRD
MANAGING EDITOR • MURPHY
PRODUCTION, DESIGN • ERIC TALBOT

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LONELY WARRIOR, YOUR PATH IS DIFFICULT.
SHOULD WE STRIVE TO BE AS COLD-HEARTED AS OUR WORST ENEMY?
LIKE YOUR MIGHTY BROTHERS, YOU TOO ARE A WARRIOR BORN AND TRAINED. YOU, THOUGH, ARE NOT AS STEELY-EDGED AS MAY BE REQUIRED...
YOU FOLLOW YOUR HEART ON A BROKEN, CURVING ROAD TO UNCERTAIN DESTINATIONS. EVEN SO, THERE MAY STILL BE BALANCE FOR YOU.
WILL YOU CHOOSE WISELY? WITH COMPASSION? OR WILL YOU THINK ONLY OF YOURSELF?
WE SHALL SEE.
LET ME TELL YOU A STORY...
A.C. FARLEY '04

the path

by jim lawson

lettering by eric talbot

frontispiece by a.c. farley

letters page art by dave white

cover by lawson and talbot

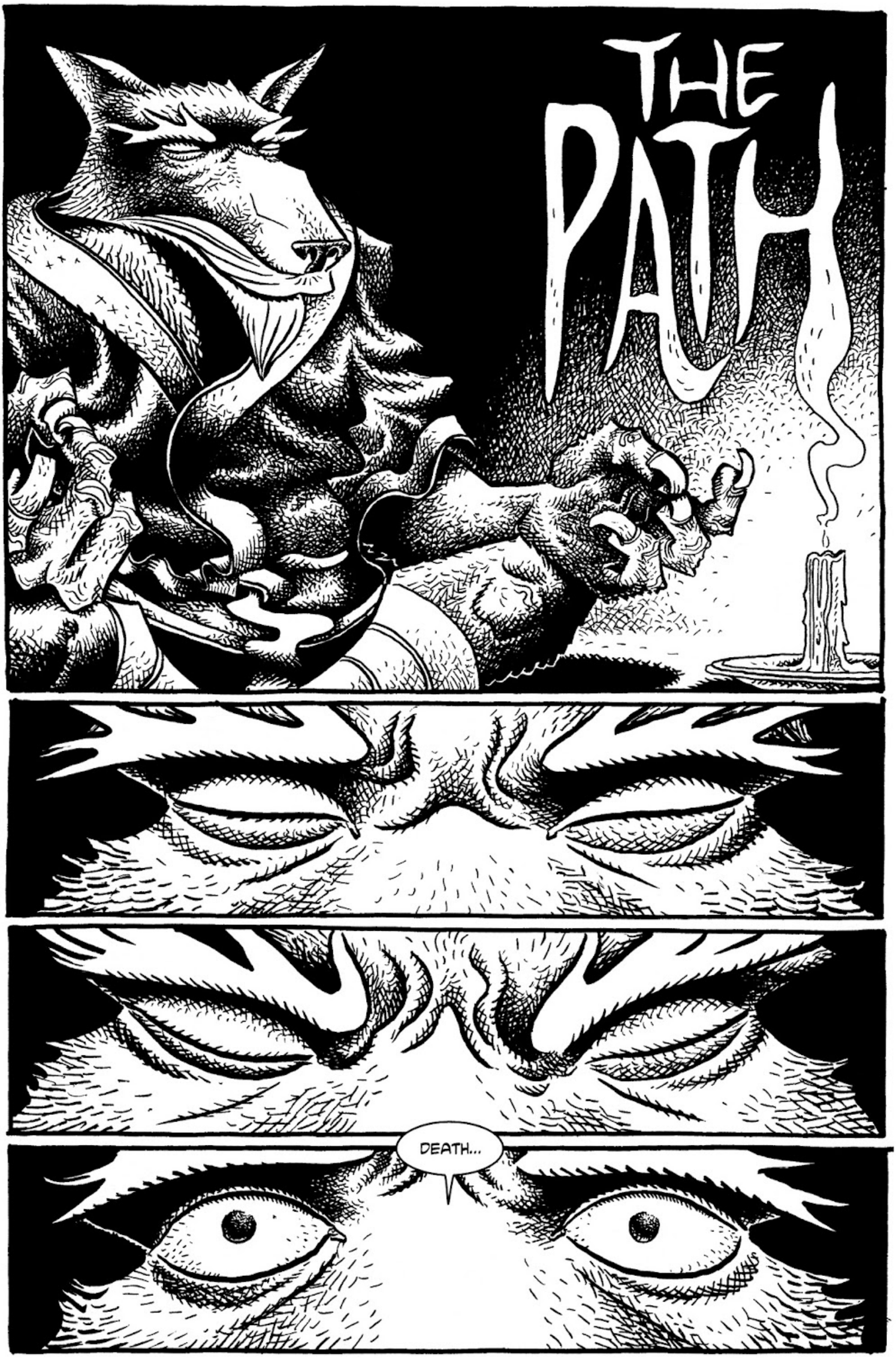
community service

plot by sonia murphy

script by murphy

art by steph dumais

lettering by talbot



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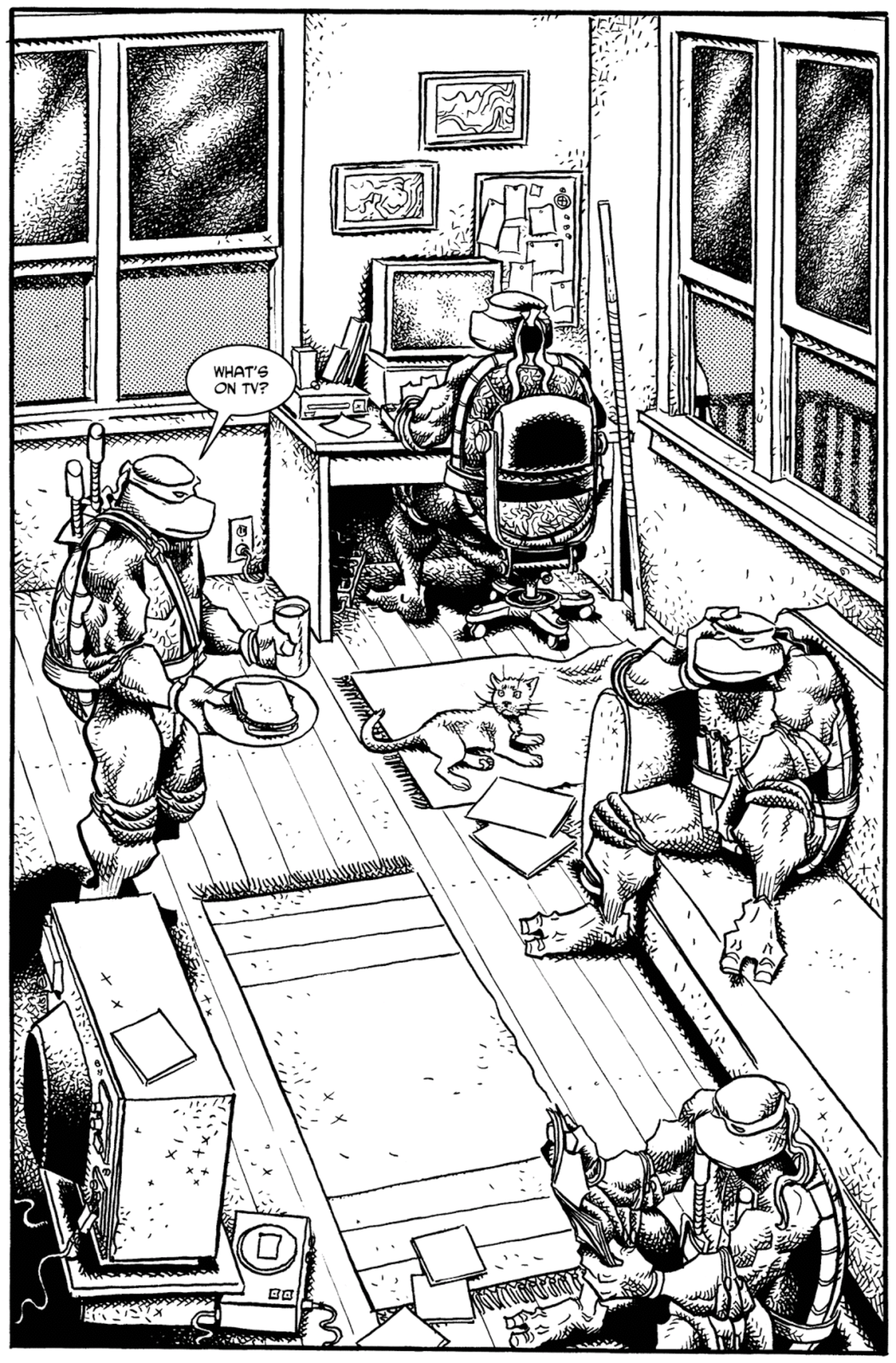
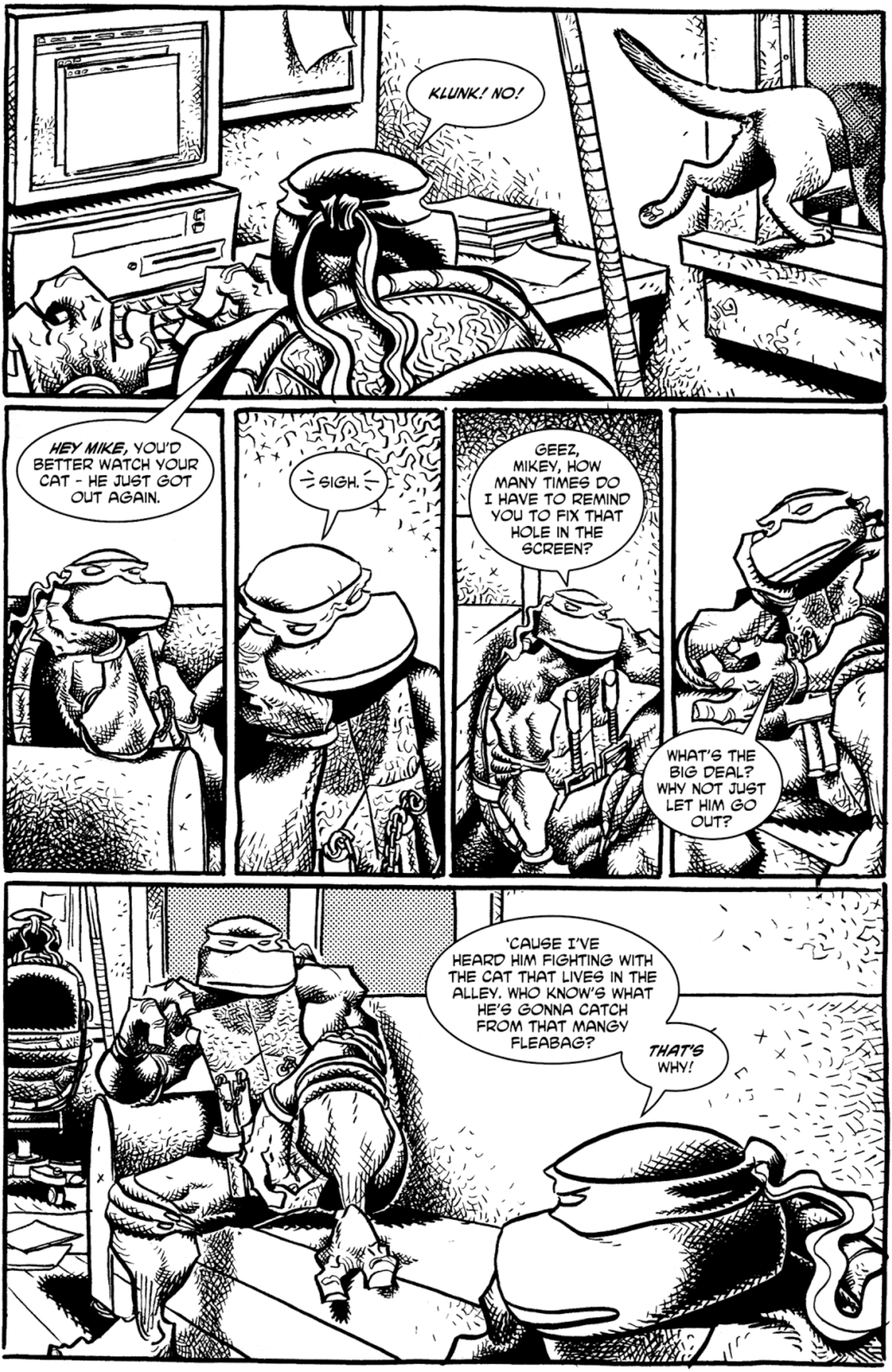
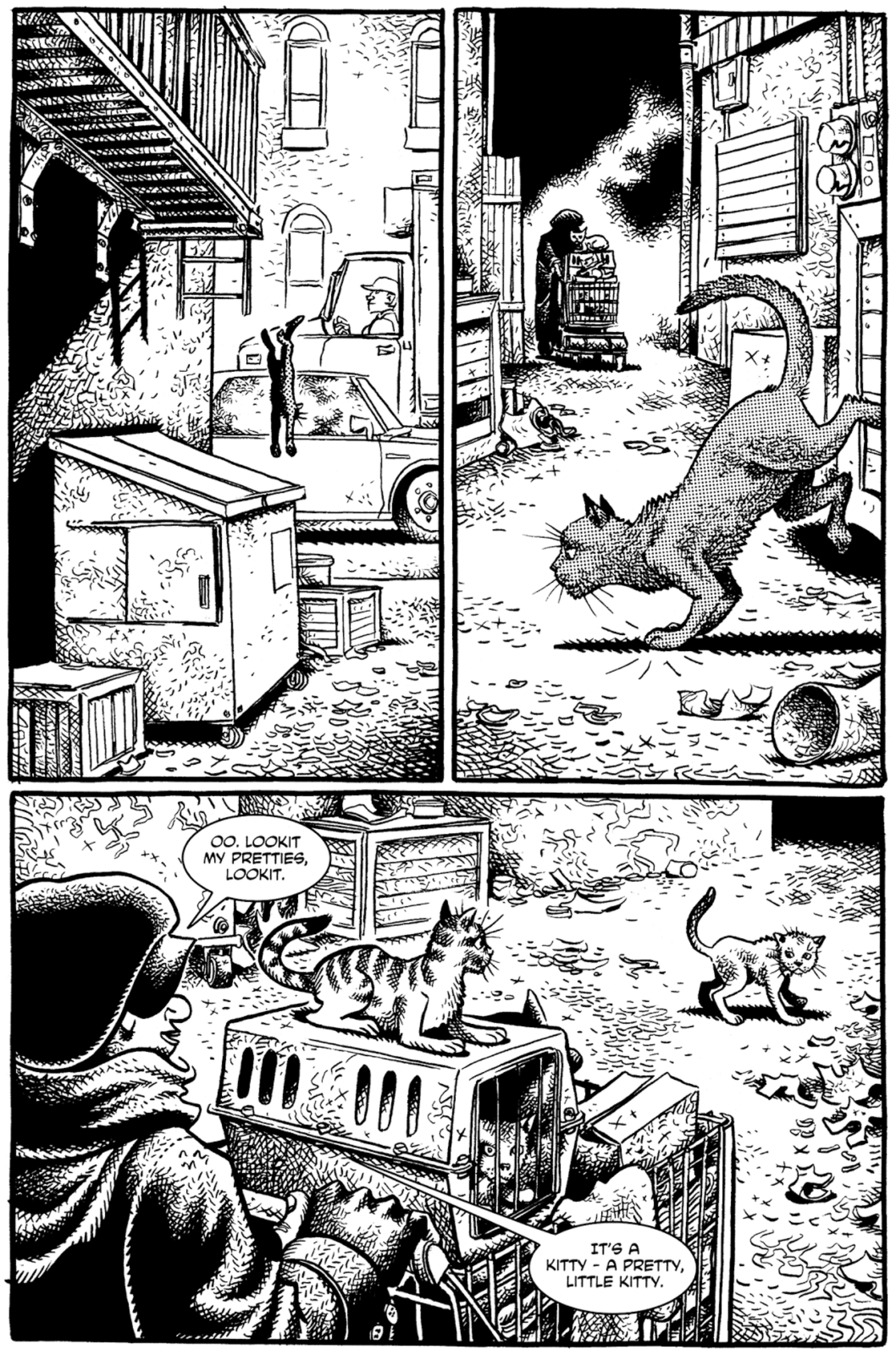

WHAT'S ON TV?

NOTHIN'...
WHADDAYA MEAN "NOTHIN'" - IT'S SIX O'CLOCK. *THE SIMPSONS* ARE ON. WHERE'S THE REMOTE?
NAH, I DON'T FEEL LIKE WATCHING TV.
YOU DON'T FEEL LIKE WATCHING TV?
OH, HI *KLUNK.*
IS THERE AN *ECHO* IN HERE?
WHAT'S WITH YOU?


KLUNK! NO!
HEY MIKE, YOU'D BETTER WATCH YOUR CAT - HE JUST GOT OUT AGAIN.
SIGH.
GEEZ, MIKEY, HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO REMIND YOU TO FIX THAT HOLE IN THE SCREEN?
WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL? WHY NOT JUST LET HIM GO OUT?
'CAUSE I'VE HEARD HIM FIGHTING WITH THE CAT THAT LIVES IN THE ALLEY. WHO KNOW'S WHAT HE'S GONNA CATCH FROM THAT MANGY FLEABAG?
THAT'S WHY!


OO. LOOKIT MY PRETTIES, LOOKIT.
IT'S A KITTY - A PRETTY, LITTLE KITTY.

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WORK SUCKED AS USUAL. I'LL BE HOME IN TEN MINUTES. WHERE ARE YOU? - WHA?!
CRAAASHHH!

DID YOU HEAR THAT?
IT SOUNDED LIKE A CAR ACCIDENT.
AND THEN THIS *STUPID CAT* RAN RIGHT OUT IN FRONT OF ME!
I DON'T KNOW! *WHO CARES?!* MY CAR IS *TOTALED!*
KLUNK

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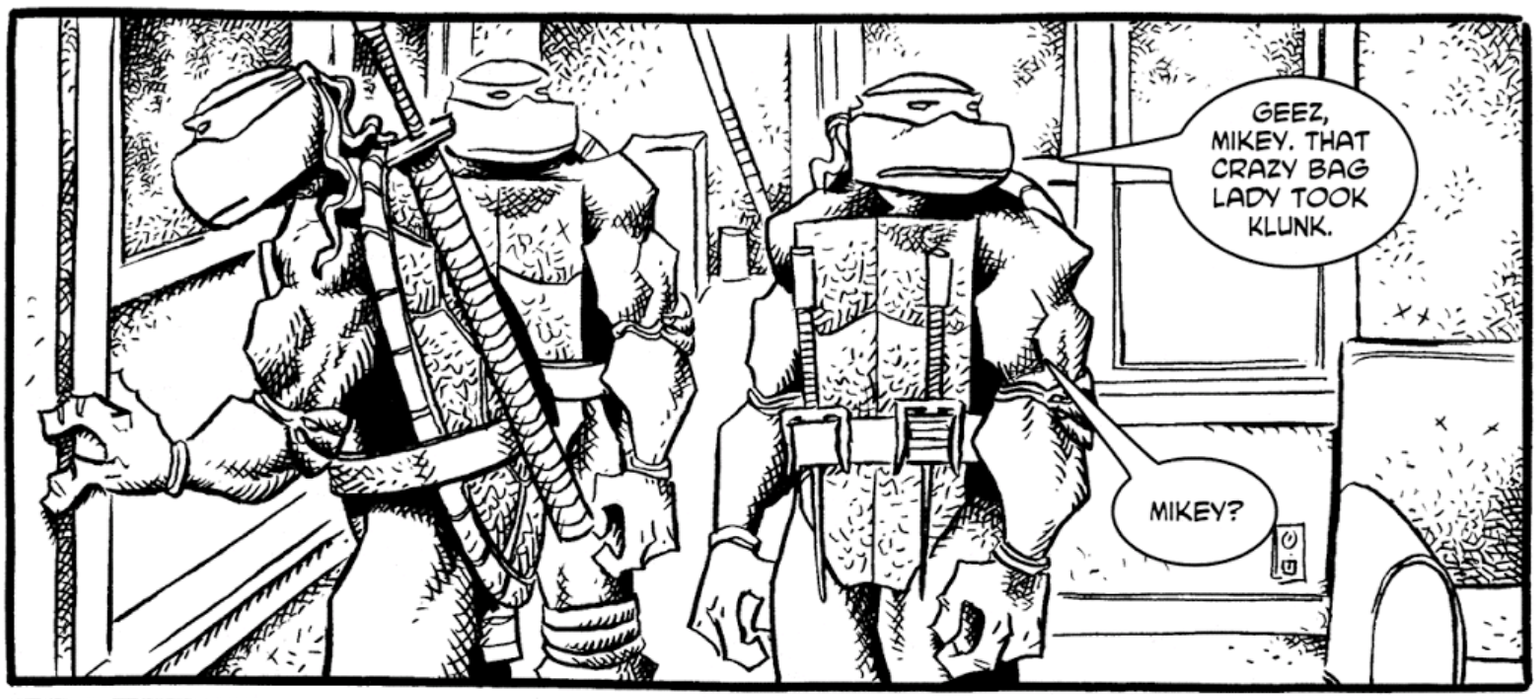
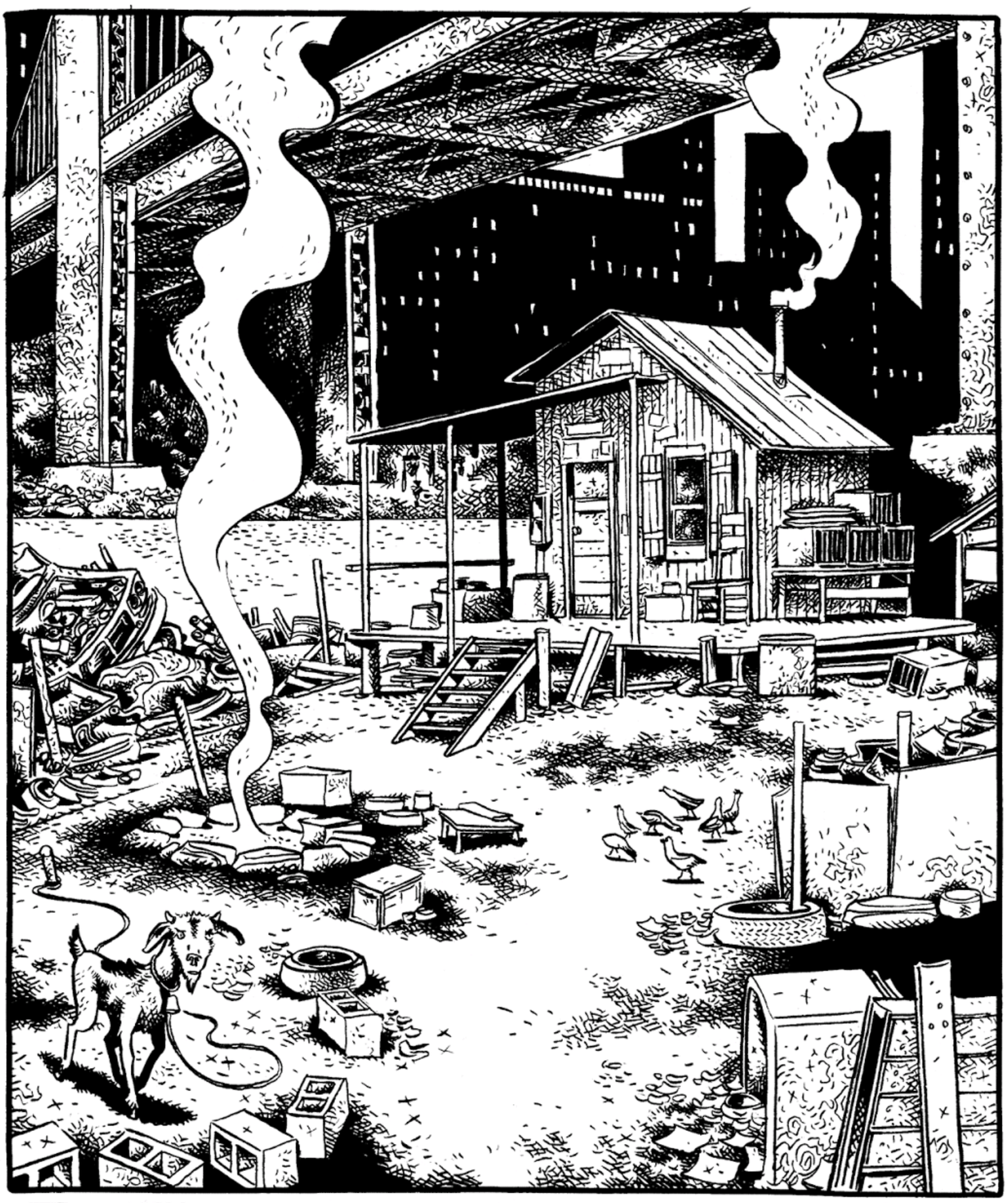

GEEZ, MIKEY. THAT CRAZY BAG LADY TOOK KLUNK.
MIKEY?

MUST GET TO RIVER...
FIX KIT–
MY CAT. YOU HAVE MY CAT.
GIVE HIM TO ME.

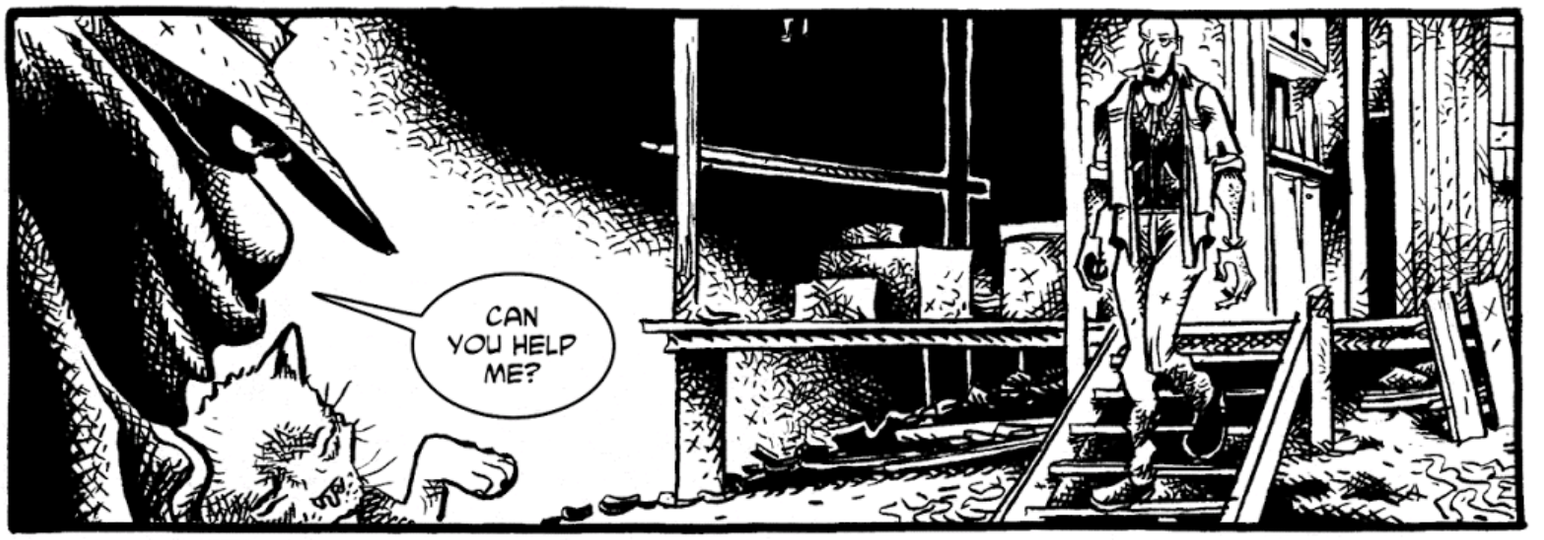
N... NO...
KITTY IS BROKEN. MUST GET TO RIVER. MUST FIX KITTY.
I TOLD YOU-
-GIVE HIM TO ME!
PAF!
OHHH...!
OH, KLUNK, NO... HOW COULD THIS HAVE HAPPENED?

LILLY CAN FIX KITTY. LILLY KNOWS TOMAS.
CAN'T YOU SEE THAT HE'S BLEEDING?! I'VE GOT TO SOMEHOW GET HIM TO A VET!
NO VET. VET NO FIX KITTY. TOMAS FIX KITTY. YOU COME QUICK. BRING KITTY.
NO VET. VET NO FIX KITTY. TOMAS FIX KITTY. YOU COME QUICK. BRING KITTY.
HURRY, HURRY. MUST GET TO RIVER.



RIVER.

HELLO, LEELY. WHAT HAF YOU BROUGHT ME TONIGHT?
SEE, TOMAS - KITTY.
TOMAS FIX KITTY.


CAN YOU HELP ME?

LET ME SEE HIM.

REELAX, STRANGER. YOU ARE AMONG FRIENDS HERE.

THEES CAT... EES NOT LONG FOR HIM. HE HAS DEE MARK OF DEATH UPON HEEM.

NO! I WON'T ACCEPT THAT! ISN'T THERE ANYTHING YOU CAN DO FOR HIM?
DERE EES A WAY...
A LIFE... FOR A LIFE.

A LIFE FOR A LIFE...

YOU MEAN... MY LIFE?

NO, EET MUST BE AN EQUAL LIFE... A COMPARABLE LIFE.

A CAT, THEN.
SI, YES. BREENG ME A CAT.

LILLY! LILLY, PLEASE...

NO! YOU NO HAVE MY KITTIES! RAIMI, CAMPBELL AND ED ARE LILLY'S KITTIES!

I'M SORRY. I'M SORRY, LILLY. I...

I KNOW! I'LL BE RIGHT BACK!

bk
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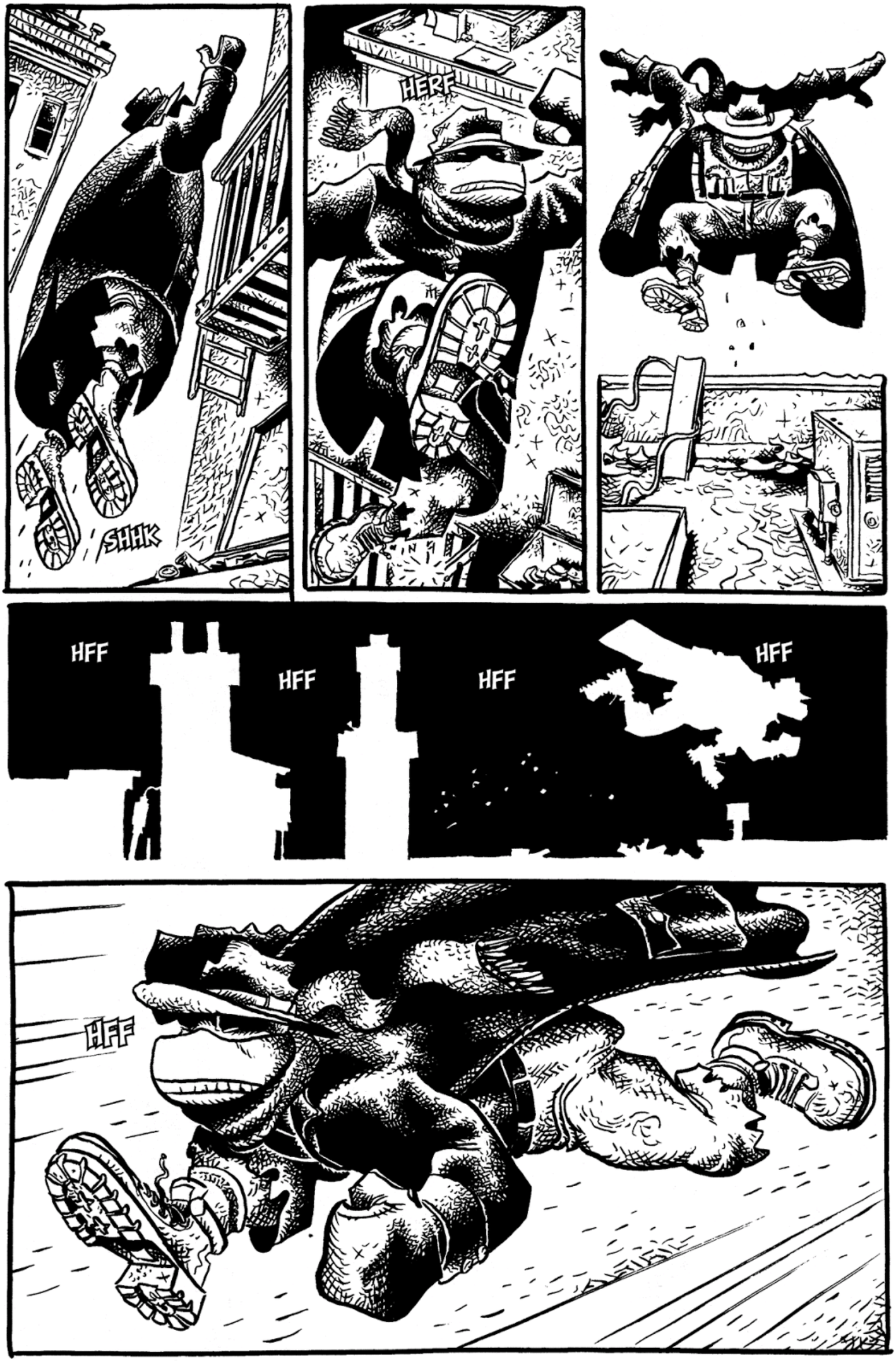

SHHK
HERF
HFF
HFF
HFF
HFF
HFF

WHAT AM I DOING?!
SKKFF
HERF HERF HERF
THIS IS INSANE!
WHAT DO I DO?
AARGHH!

LAST WEEK:
WALK WITH ME, MICHELANGELO. THERE IS SOMETHING THAT I WANT TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT.
WHAT IS IT, MASTER?
I HAVE HAD A PREMONITION... ALTHOUGH IT'S MEANING IS UNCLEAR. NONETHELESS, I FEEL COMPELLED TO SPEAK WITH YOU.
YES, MASTER.
I AM WORRIED ABOUT YOU, MICHELANGELO. I AM WORRIED ABOUT YOUR SAFETY.
THE WAY OF THE WARRIOR HAS FOUND ACCEPTANCE AND LIVES IN YOUR BROTHERS BUT FOR YOU IT IS NOT SO EASY.
I FEAR THERE IS A WEAKNESS... AND THAT IT REPRESENTS DANGER FOR YOU.

YOU MUST LEARN TO PUT ASIDE EMOTION AND SIMPLY ACT.
FOR YOU THE BATTLE IS NOT OUT THERE.
IT WILL BE WAGED *HERE.*
TAP
THE ONES WE BATTLE DO NOT SHARE YOUR SENSE OF MORALITY.
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, MASTER? THAT I SHOULD BE MORE LIKE RAPHAEL?
I TELL YOU THIS WITH GREAT HESITATION AND SADNESS, FOR WHAT I SENSE IN YOU IS A PURENESS BEYOND VALUE.
WHAT I AM ASKING OF YOU IS TO LEAVE THAT BEHIND, YET NOT FORGET IT.
IS THAT WHAT YOU HAVE DONE, MASTER?
ONE MUST BE PREPARED TO WALK THE PATH ONE HAS CHOSEN, MICHELANGELO.

PRRRRRRRR

I'M BACK!

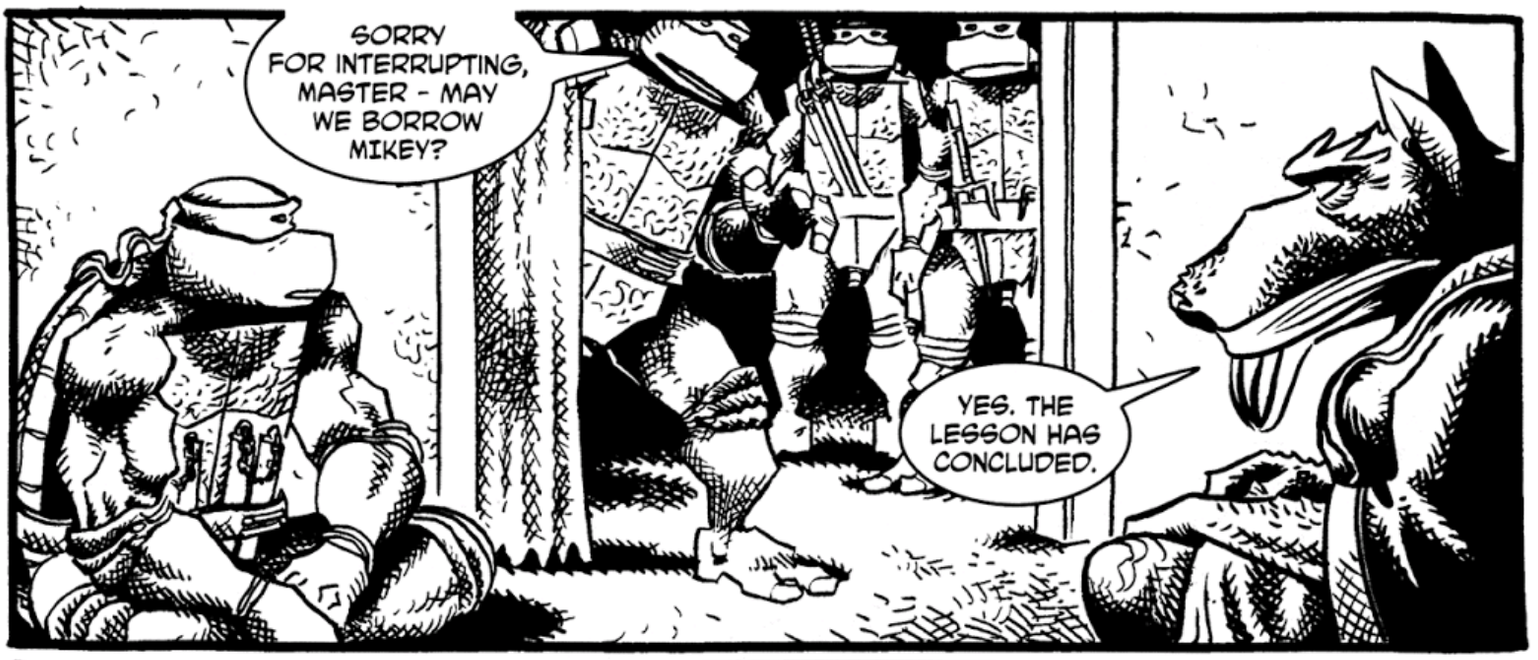
YOU HAVE DEE SACRIFICE?
YES. HERE.
IT'S OKAY. I KNOW THIS CAT... IT'S BEEN HANGING OUT IN THE ALLEY BELOW WHERE I LIVE...
NOBODY LOVES IT. JUST *LOOK* AT IT...

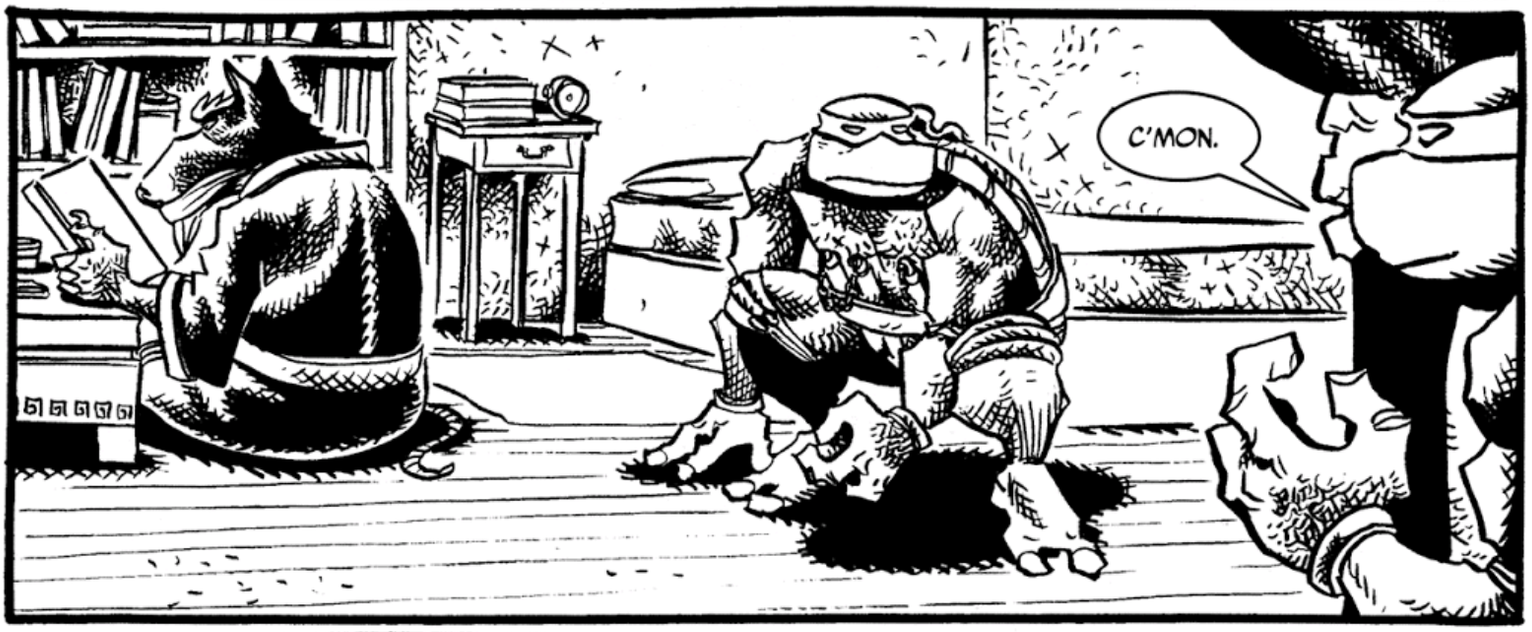
I... I CAN'T DO IT!
ARE YOU SURE?
YES... LET HER GO.
I'M SORRY, KLUNK... I'M SO SORRY.

GOODBYE, FRIEND.
EET WAS NOT A COMPARABLE LIFE.

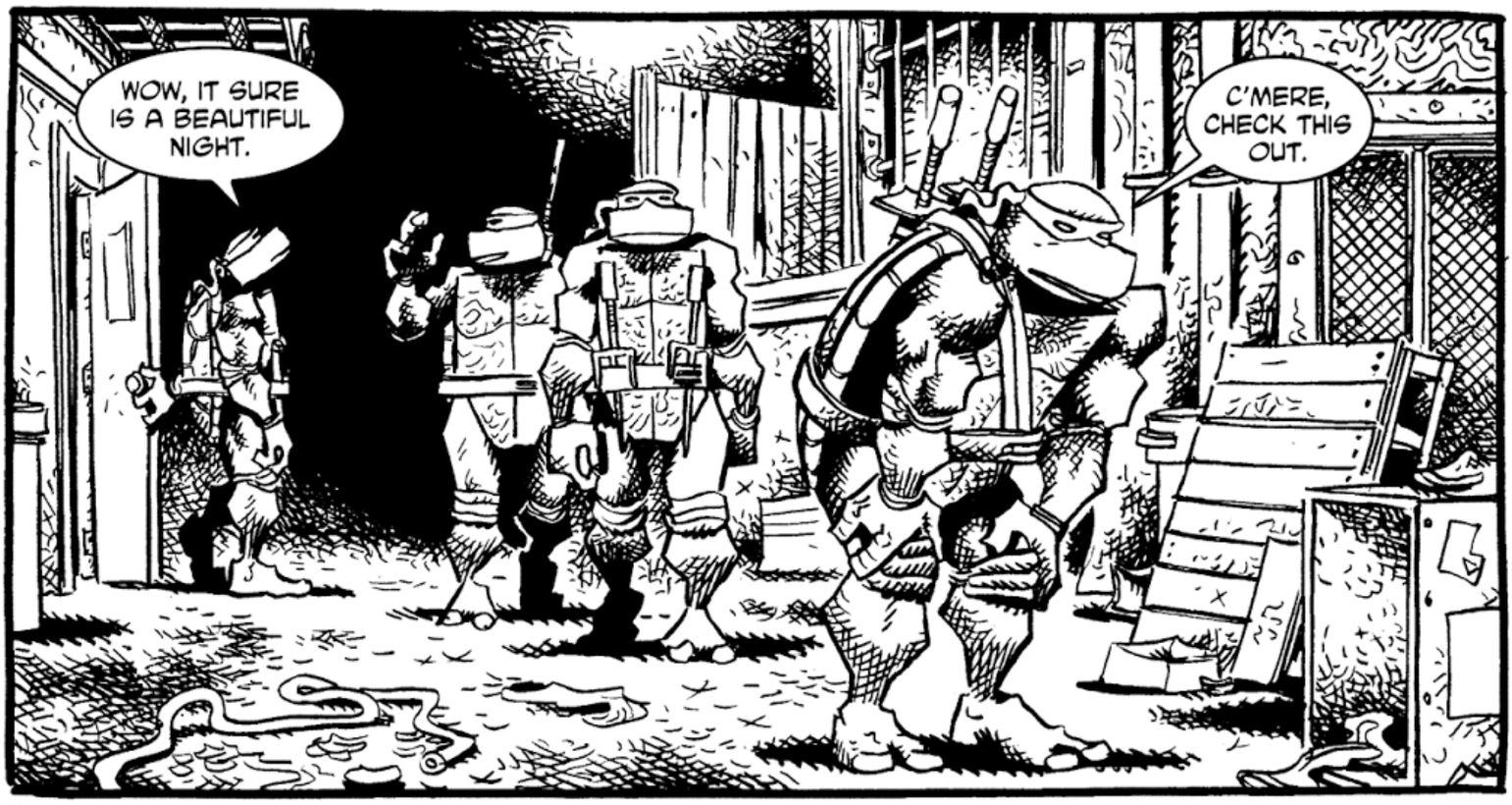
MASTER, MAY I HAVE A WORD WITH YOU?
YES, COME IN, MICHELANGELO. SIT DOWN.
THANK YOU.
LAST WEEK, WHEN YOU TOLD ME TO WALK LIKE A WARRIOR...
THE PATH OF THE WARRIOR.
YES, FORGIVE ME, MASTER... THE PATH OF THE WARRIOR.
I HAVE FAILED... TO DO SO.
I WAS UNABLE TO MAKE A CHOICE THAT I NEEDED, THAT I, UH, WANTED TO MAKE. TO PUT EMOTION ASIDE...
IN NOT MAKING THIS CHOICE, I... LOST A FRIEND.

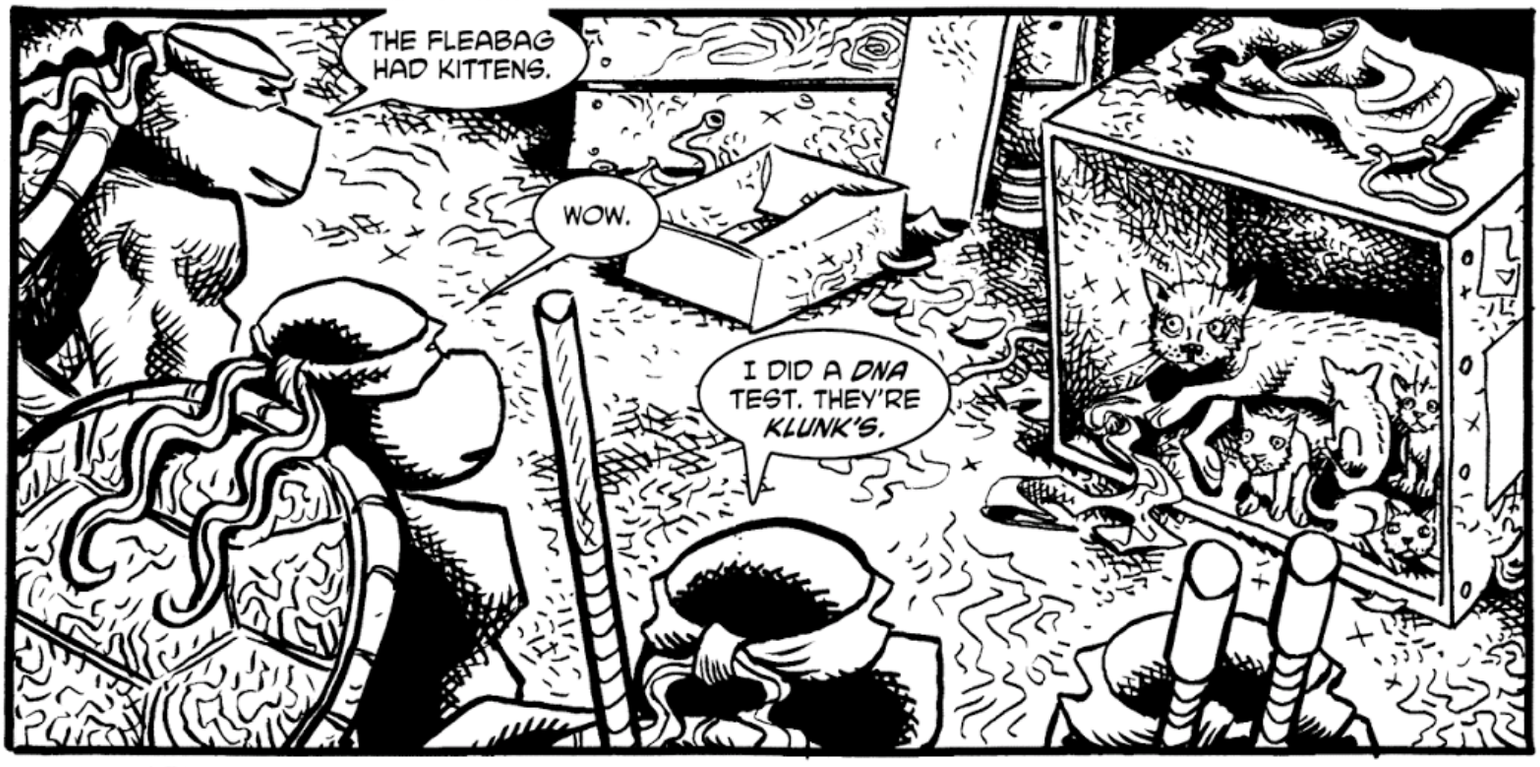
YOU ARE THE LILY ON THE RIVERBANK, MICHELANGELO.
!
HOW DID YOU KNOW...?
THE LILY ON THE RIVERBANK IS THE MOST BEAUTIFUL FLOWER OF ALL. THE RIVER'S PARTING OF THE TREES AFFORDS IT THE MOST PLENTIFUL SUNSHINE. IT ENJOYS THE RICHEST SOIL AND NEVER WANTS FOR WATER.
YET IF THE RIVER RISES THE LILY WILL BE WASHED AWAY. NOW ANSWER ME THIS - IS THE LILY BETTER OFF DEEP IN THE WOODS, SAFELY WITHIN A CREVICE IN A ROCK... OR ON THAT RIVERBANK?
UH, I DON'T KNOW, MASTER.
I AM NOT PERFECT, MY SON. PERHAPS YOU, WHO WALKS TWO PATHS, HAS SOMETHING TO TEACH ME.


SORRY FOR INTERRUPTING, MASTER - MAY WE BORROW MIKEY?
YES. THE LESSON HAS CONCLUDED.

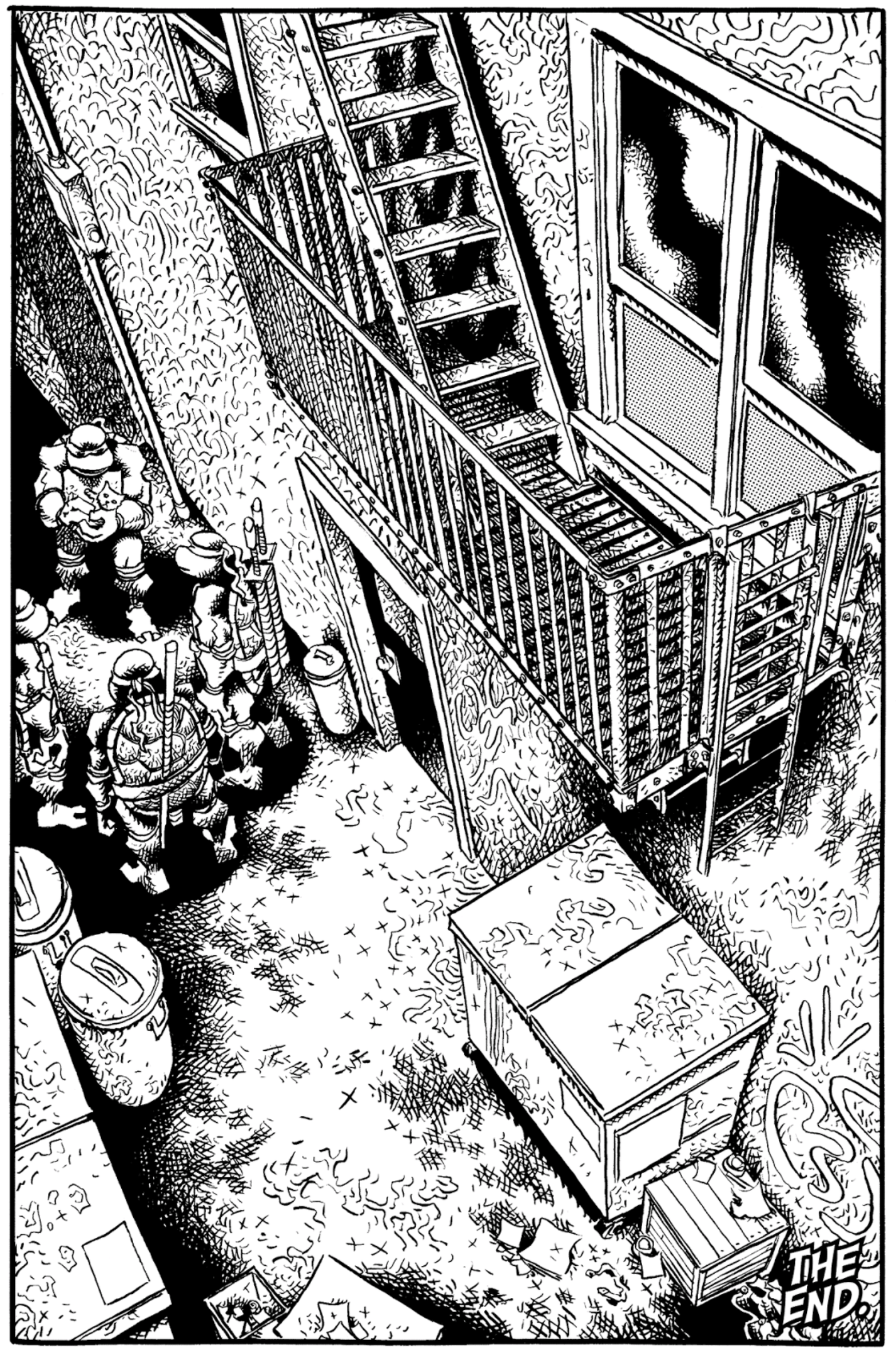

C'MON.

WHAT'S GOING ON?
YOU'LL SEE.
EXIT


WOW, IT SURE IS A BEAUTIFUL NIGHT.
C'MERE, CHECK THIS OUT.


THE FLEABAG HAD KITTENS.
WOW.
I DID A *DNA* TEST. THEY'RE *KLUNK'S.*

THAT'S SICK, YOU GEEKOID.
I COULD TELL THAT JUST BY LOOKING AT THEM.


THE END.

TALES MAIL

P.O. Box 486, Northampton, MA 01061 • tales@talesofthetmnt.com

We are ninja

I love the way you represented the ninjas in issues #5 & #6. Plus the two views on honor in #6 was great. You guys are doing a GREAT job. You really understand what ninjas are all about.

Dena
kalifallen@aol.com

We are late

As read in the *Tales of the TMNT #6* –which was absolutely mind-blowing!—I saw a preview for issue #7 that said that issue would come out on January 7th. Today's date is the 13th and my local comic book usually has the comics within two days of the release date but it has been almost a week and 7's a no-show. I'm not sure of that this has anything to do with the closing of Dreamwave but I would like to know what happened. I really enjoy these comics and would appreciate some feed back.

Arth Suthar
Brownpower4life@gmail.com

Nope, nothing to do with Dreamwave's going out of business (they ceased publishing their TMNT comic in mid-2004). We were just a week or so late getting issue #7 out.

We are monthly

As an avid *Tales* reader, I picked up #7 of the new series yesterday. It was probably my favorite of the *Tales* issues I have read so far. But the main reason I am writing is not to compliment you on the good work on #7, but more to compliment on you on *Tales* going monthly! This is perfect for me since I hate waiting 2 months to get the regular Mirage *TMNT* comic. Now I'm happy! One other thing: I had a letter published in a recent issue of *TMNT* in which I asked about a possible TMNT-Sonic the Hedgehog crossover, but Peter never told me his opinion on it. What do you think?

Mark Neeley
(email address withheld by request)

Sorry to report that there is no chance of a TMNT-Sonic crossover (at least not in this dimension).

He is Dan

With regards to *Tales of TMNT #8:* I must say I love Mr. Dan Berger's
artwork. In fact, I'd like to see more of his artwork in Tales. I think Mr. Dan Berger also did artwork in Archie Comic's Ninja Turtles comics; is that true?

Joseph Dillistone
Gunblade007@yahoo.com

Dan will be doing another issue of Tales in early 2006.

And you're right, Dan was the regular inker on most of Archie's TMNT Adventures (and he even wrote a 3-issue mini-series for Archie starring Merdude). Dan is also the creator of the DIY comic series, Gutwallow.

He is Murphy

Yowsah, issue #8's back-up story "The Risen" was a freakin' great ending to the dead (dying? living dead?) Utrom's life (as chronicled in them other two back-up stories). Creepy, too. I'm sad to see the little guy go but I applaud Murphy for doing something different and, yes indeed, totally whacked out. Murphy, Lawson and (when inking) Talbot did a great job. You got more short tales lined up for *Tales?*

Bjorn Robbinson
Augusta ME

Well, there's one starting on the next page with art by Steph Dumais (check out raisinlove.com) and one next issue with art by Lawson that more or less continues from "The Risen." See you then!

He is Eric

Even though I've been enjoying most issues of the new *Tales* I'd like to take this opportunity to write in praising not the stories or art but the overall design elements found within each issue. Specifically, I love the second page of each issue (the title/credits page). Excellent choice of fonts and images. I just love the whole package! Cudos to Eric Talbot for putting such nice touches on the book!

Sarah Nolan
Shnn76@comcast.net

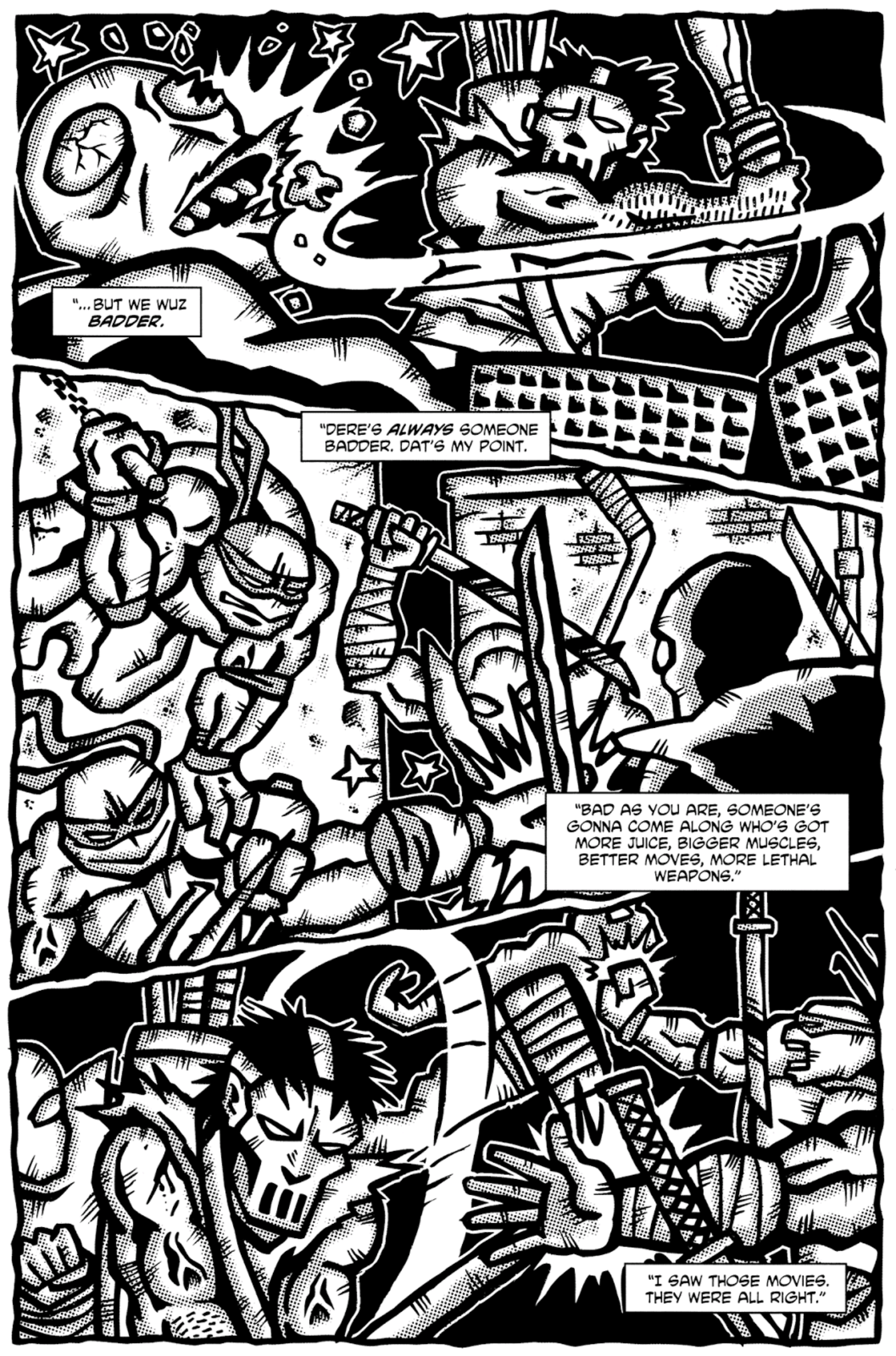
She is Shadow (or Murphy)

Re *Tales #7*. So, if I'm reading this correctly, the character Shadow goes from living in the big city (Manhattan) to living in the country (somewhere around Northampton MA) and hating it. Right? I mean, at the end of the issue she gripes about how people in her new town all look alike and dress the same. Well, you know what? Too bad. There's a reason people around here could care less about fashion and make-up and designer labels and the like and that reason is that people around here are comfortable with themselves and their community and thus aren't stuck up about appearance and status. If Shadow (or, I suppose, that issue's writer) doesn't like it around here, then leave.

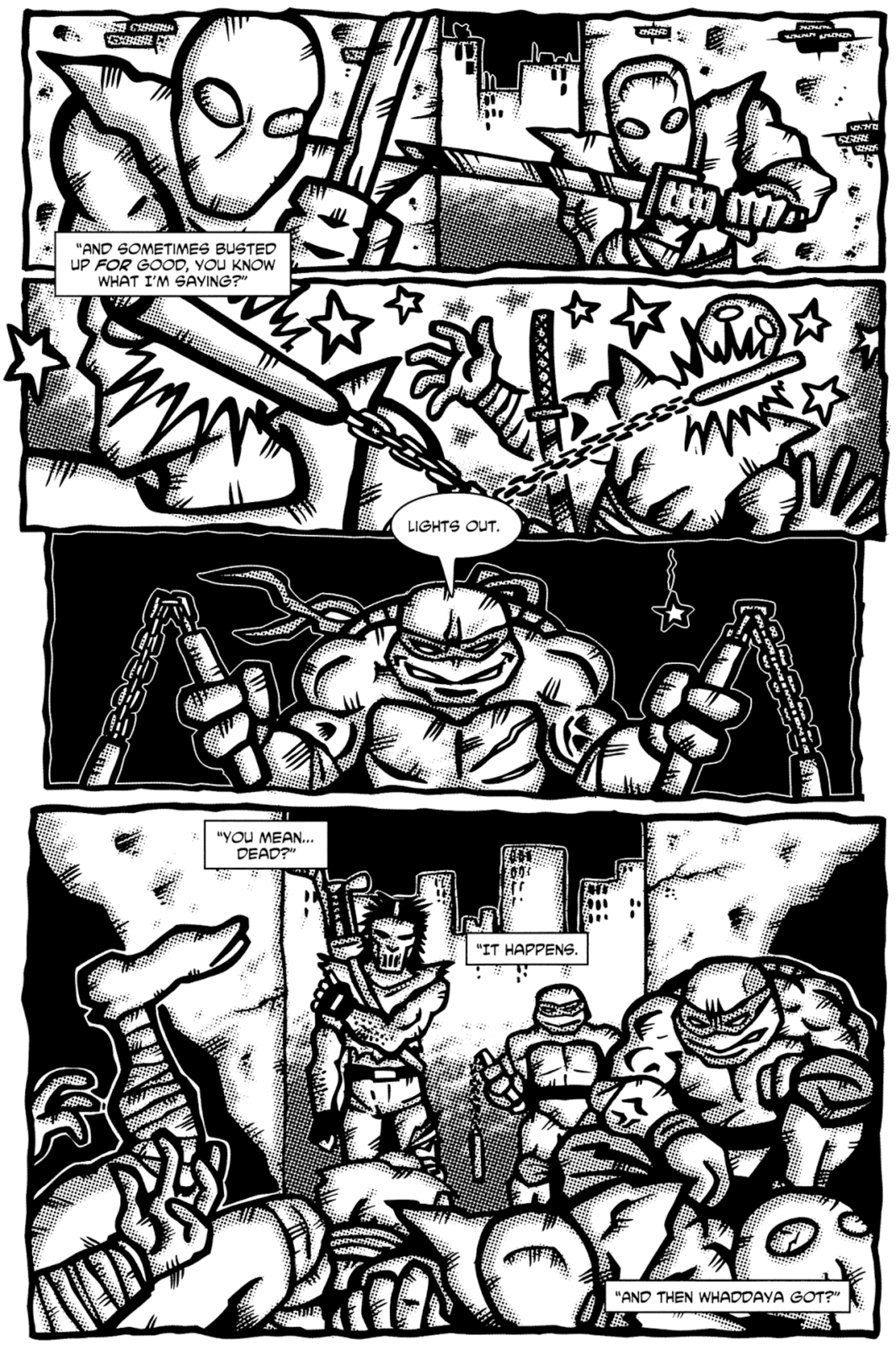
Charles Citro
Northampton MA

THAT'S ALL THE LETTERS FOR THIS ISSUE. WE LOVE HEARING WHAT YOU HAVE TO SAY SO KEEP 'EM COMING AND WE'LL SEE YOU NEXT MONTH!

"YOU USED TO BE A GANGBANGER? YOU?! YOU'RE A WHITE BOY!"
"NAH, NOT A GANGBANGER LIKE SOME OF YOU... BUT I USED TO RUN WITH DESE FOUR BROTHERS, STREET FIGHTERS WHO USED TO GO UP AGAINST DIS GANG CALLED THE FOOT."
"THE FOOT? I HEARD OF THEM. THEY WERE BADASSES IN THEIR DAY."
"YEAH THE FOOT WUZ BAD...


"...BUT WE WUZ *BADDER.*
"DERE'S *ALWAYS* SOMEONE BADDER. DAT'S MY POINT.
"BAD AS YOU ARE, SOMEONE'S GONNA COME ALONG WHO'S GOT MORE JUICE, BIGGER MUSCLES, BETTER MOVES, MORE LETHAL WEAPONS."
"I SAW THOSE MOVIES. THEY WERE ALL RIGHT."

"YEAH WELL DAT'S ANOTHER POINT I WANNA MAKE:
"REAL LIFE AIN'T LIKE THE MOVIES.
"IN REAL LIFE PEOPLE GET BUSTED UP.
@#$%!
"SOMETIMES BUSTED UP GOOD.


"AND SOMETIMES BUSTED UP *FOR* GOOD, YOU KNOW WHAT I'M SAYING?"
LIGHTS OUT.
"YOU MEAN... DEAD?"
"IT HAPPENS.
"AND THEN WHADDAYA GOT?"

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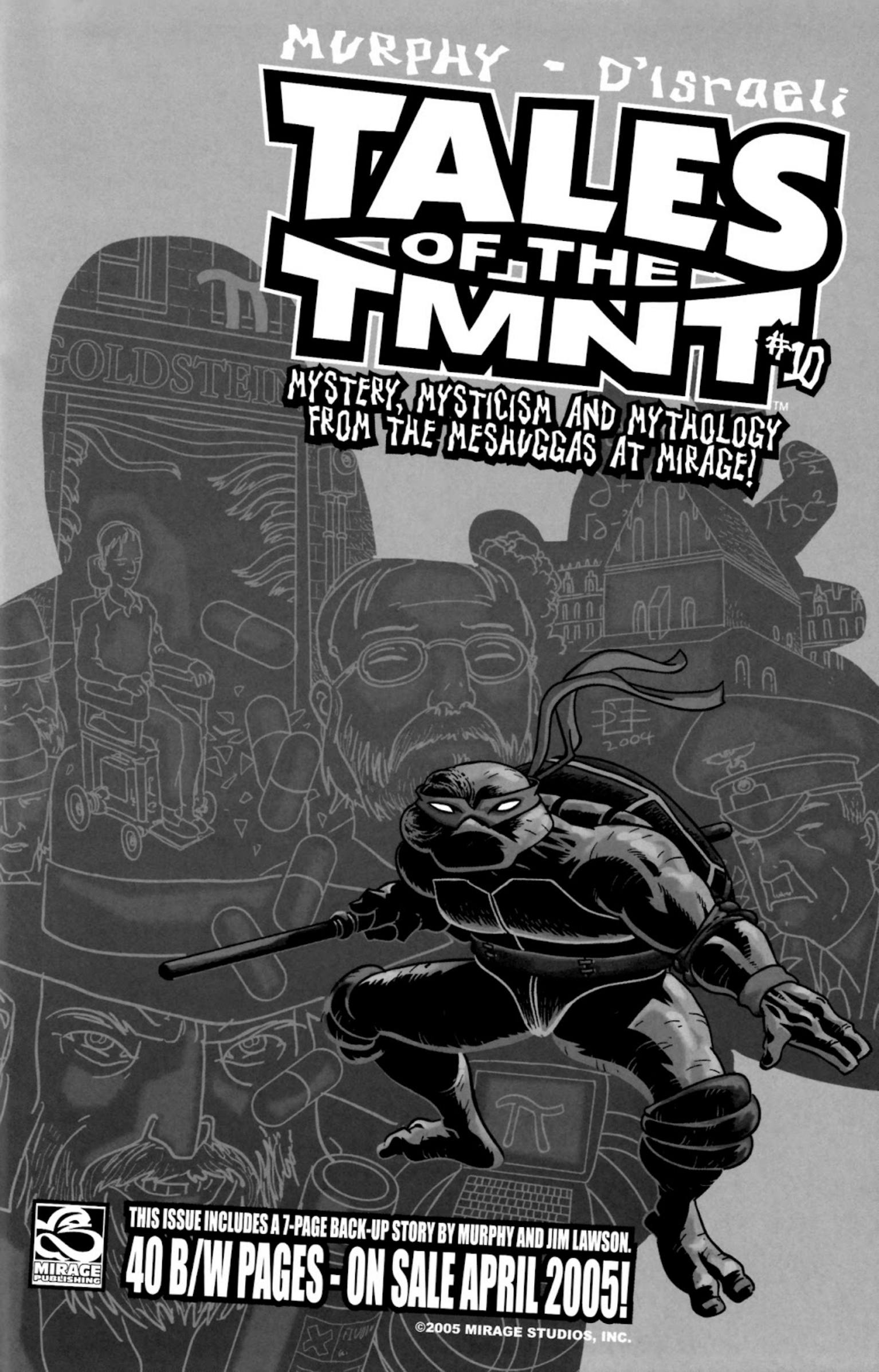
MURPHY - D'ISRAELI
TALES OF THE TMNT
#10
MYSTERY, MYSTICISM AND MYTHOLOGY FROM THE MESHUGGAS AT MIRAGE!
MIRAGE PUBLISHING
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